

CENTER for JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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BY FAX: 212-556-4634 (2 pages)

BY CERTIFIED MAIL: 7002-2030-0007-8572-9075

November 30, 2005

George Freeman, Assistant General Counsel
The New York Times Company
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

RE: New York Times' protocols and procedures with respect to requests for
correction of false and defamatory publication

Dear Mr. Freeman:

This follows up your public assertion that The New York Times has a "strong policy" of correcting factual errors and readily does so "irrespective of whether it increases or decreases the chances of being sued" – which you stated as a panelist at the November 16th program, "*Freedom of the Press or License to Libel: Balancing Freedom of the Press with an Individual's Right to Protect 'A Good Name' from Defamatory Statements*", sponsored by the New York University Law School Alumni Association.

In comments from the microphone, I publicly took issue with that assertion. I stated that The Times had not even given me the courtesy of a response to a letter I had written for correction of a column about me which I had demonstrated to be knowingly false and defamatory throughout. I recounted that the letter had been addressed to Bill Keller, with copies to Arthur Sulzberger, Jr., Jill Abramson, and Allan Siegal, among others – and that when I thereafter turned to Byron Calame, his position was that because the column was published before he became public editor, he would not get involved.

After the program, I introduced myself to you and expressly asked whether you were unaware of my referred-to July 29, 2005 letter for correction of a November 7, 2004 column by Marek Fuchs. You replied that you had no knowledge of it. You also stated that you were unaware of my nearly 15-year correspondence with The Times that preceded the column, including a succession of complaints to Mr. Sulzberger pertaining to Times' suppression, protectionism, and black-balling which that correspondence chronicled.

November 30, 2005

Kindly advise as to whether other counsel at The New York Times Company's Legal Department were also unaware of my July 29, 2005 letter and subsequent September 26, 2005 complaint to Mr. Calame – at least prior to my November 1st fax to the Legal Department listing defendants upon whom I would be serving a summons and complaint and my subsequent telephone conversation with counsel David McCraw.

Assuredly, The Times has established protocols and procedures requiring the newspaper's editors to consult with the Legal Department before rejecting – or in this case, ignoring -- requests for correction of published matter shown to be knowingly false and defamatory. Such protocols and procedures are plainly in The Times' interest in reducing the likelihood of its being successfully sued for libel and money damages. The consequence of libel lawsuits – borne by The New York Times Company -- are tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of dollars in legal fees, potentially millions of dollars in damages – and attendant negative publicity that could cause the value of New York Times Company stock to tumble.

As a shareholder in New York Times Company stock, I – as any Times Company shareholder – am concerned that negligent and violative conduct by the newspaper's editors, as well as by its publisher, the Company's chairman, not expose the Company to needless liability. Therefore, please confirm that The Times has protocols and procedures requiring editors and management to secure the advice of the Legal Department before spurning requests for correction of false and defamatory matter and that such were herein complied with.

Thank you.

Yours for a quality judiciary
and responsible journalism,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Coordinator
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)

cc: Solomon B. Watson, IV, Senior Vice President & General Counsel



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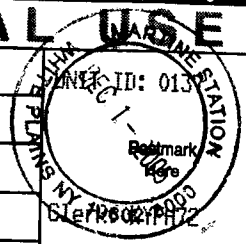
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